

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF VICTIM SERVICES MEETING
MINUTES

Wednesday, May 7, 2014
Anne Arundel County Police Department Headquarters

ATTENDEES

BOARD MEMBERS: Ellen Alexander, Anne Bean, Barbara Bond, Dario Broccolino, Laurie Rajala for Tammy Brown, Rea Goldfinger, Lisae Jordan for Rhea Harris, Scott Keller, Molly Knipe, Patricia Marshall, Margery Patten, Scott Beard for Cindy Pease, Debra Tall

STAFF: Anne Litecky and Monique Mitchell

GUESTS: Rosario Alston, Suzy Boisclair, Michaele Cohen, Jane Henderson, Richard Hoffman, PSO Jackie Lisjuan and Amanda Rodriguez

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER: Ellen Alexander, Chair, began the meeting at approximately 10:20 a.m.

MINUTES:

- A quorum was not reached to motion for acceptance March 5, 2014 meeting minutes. The minutes were tabled until the end of the meeting or will be approved electronically at a later date

Guest Presenter, Amanda Rodriguez, GOCCP, Human Trafficking Policy Analyst

- Maryland sees four facets of human trafficking
 1. Domestic Minor- a young child under the age of 18 is sold for sex or a runaway uses sex as a means of survival (survival sex)
 2. Adult Trafficking- someone is forcing or coercing the victim to perform sexual acts
 3. Foreign Nationals- Typically Latinas and Asians are used for sex (Baltimore City and Prince George's County are high traffic areas)
 4. Labor Trafficking
- Statistics
 1. Average age of a domestic minor victim sold into trafficking is between the ages of 12-14
 2. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) report within the first 48 hours of a child running away, that 1 in 3 are sexually exploited by either solicitation or are picked up by a trafficker.
 3. The average lifespan of a prostitute is 7 years after they start This is due to suicide, murder or drug abuse
 4. Human Trafficking victims are more likely to come to someone in victim services as opposed to law enforcement for help
 5. The average purchaser "john" is a married white male with children and has a decent job and income.
 6. The average purchase price is \$50/15 minutes, \$125/30 minutes or \$250/hour

- Resources
 1. Currently Maryland does not have many funding resources specifically for victims of Human Traffickers
 2. Turn Around, Inc assists victims in Baltimore City and Baltimore County; Armenta conduct trainings and Salvation Army is trying to assist
 3. There is a high need for shelter, job skill development and trainings

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Members are reminded to actively participate in at least one State Board committee.

STANDING COMMITTEES

❖ Grant Committee

- Final decisions were made for FY2015 LSCV applications (2 applications and 2 awards) and first year FY2015 MVOC (30 applications and 11 awards)
- LSCV awards were given to SALI and MCVRC
- MVOC awards were given to four (4) domestic violence, four (4) domestic violence/sexual assault and three (3) CASA/CSC programs
- A total of \$319,400 was awarded, 1.6% went to general crime and everything else for domestic violence, sexual assault and CSC/CAC
- All GOCCP grants are listed on the website, www.goccp.maryland.gov
- Second and Third year MVOC continuation grant applications are due in late May
- The emergency grant awarded to MCVRC for the second year has been amended; MCVRC is eligible to apply for the \$35,000, however they are not eligible for the original awarded amount
- Survivors of Homicide Grant (SOHG) (\$500,000) will be administered by GOCCP. The NOFA has been posted. Applications are due June 10th electronically and June 14th hardcopies are due. There is no guarantee the funding will be available next year; Applicants are not guaranteed funding and organizations will be asked to prove sustainability

❖ Legislative Committee

- HB31, SB272 (Alex's Law) allows victims/victim representatives to ask the court to speak directly to the judge and not speak through a prosecutor at sentencing and disposition hearings
 - State Board supported this bill and wrote a letter of support
 - **SB272 passed**
- HB185/SB683 enhances penalties of any violent crime committed in the presence of a child older than 2 years old. An additional 5 years is given if found guilty.
 - State Board sent a letter of support on this bill and on the administrative proposal: HB306/SB337 which passed
- HB705/SB940 allows a personal representative to appear in court for a minor, disabled or elderly victim who is unable to act for themselves. The Board did not take a position on this bill because of conflicting advice from the Attorney General
- HB307/SB333 changes the burden of proof for judges to issue final protective and peace orders from clear and convincing evidence to a preponderance of evidence
 - State Board sent a letter of support
 - **This bill passed**

- HB803/SB1005 will increase court cost to fund MVOC and CICB. Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center asked court cost to be raised by two dollars generating an increase in revenue of 2.2 million dollars. The entire two dollar increase would go directly to MVOC funds. Due to CICB being underfunded, it was asked if they could receive 50% of the increase. A proposed amendment was generated to increase the court cost by an additional dollar (\$3) to allow CICB to receive one dollar and MVOC to continue to receive two dollars. CICB Executive Director and Board Chair will meet with Chairman Frosh to determine the best way to execute this bill to benefit both funds
 - State Board did not take a position on this bill.
 - Plans to resubmit bill in 2015
- HB1244/SB 830 extends the age of victims filing for a claim involving child abuse to twenty-five years of age. This allows adult survivors to submit claims if there is good cause
 - **This bill was passed**
- HB1245/SB922 gives victims the opportunity to utilize the upcoming Maryland Electronic Court (MDEC) System by adding the current crime victim notification forms and pamphlets to the new system. Allowing crime victims access to their rights by law.
 - **This bill was passed**
 - GOCCP has convened a workgroup to update mandated brochures, (CVNF and VINE).
 - A pilot of the new MDEC system is scheduled to take roll out in AA County later this summer
- HB397 authorizes respondents of a peace and protective order to file a written request to shield the fillings.
 - **This bill was passed**
- MD Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) shared information on priority Bills. www.mcasa.org
- MD Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) shared information on priority Bills. www.mnadv.org
- MD Crime Victims Resource Center shared information on priority Bills. www.mdcrimevictims.org

AD HOC COMMITTEES

❖ Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon

- Date: April 3, 2014
- Time: 11:30 to 2:30 pm
- Location: La Fontaine Bleue Catering in Glen Burnie, MD
- Color: cornflower blue and black
- Keynote: Marlyn Evans, whose daughter was murdered in a domestic violence case, shared her story
- 33 awards were presented, along with the first Vincent Roper Memorial Award and the Virginia Mahoney Memorial and Henry Gleim Awards
- 282 guests attended, 234 individuals paid
- \$1,483.60 over budget

❖ Memorial Services

- Sunday, April 6, 2014
- Hosts: Baltimore City, Calvert, Montgomery and Worcester Counties

- MVOC Funding assistance: \$1500 to the Northern and Southern hosts, \$1000 to the Eastern and Western hosts
- Services took place at:
 - Northern-Digital Harbor High School
 - Southern-North Beach Volunteer Fire Department
 - Eastern-Ocean City Marlin Club
 - Western-Hilton Hotel Rockville
- The services were very nice and well attended.

❖ **Unclaimed Restitution Collection**

- Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Community Supervision:
 - In April, 2.7 million collected and \$800,000 disbursed.
- Department of Juvenile Services
 - According to the CFO of Juvenile Services, they are continuing to research and attempt to locate victims to pay unclaimed restitution previously collected
 - Any funds that are not claimed will roll over to the unclaimed restitution at the end of this year (2014).
 - They are in the process of upgrading software for restitution collection which will allow them to manage collection and distribution. The system should be active in the fall.

❖ **Compliance**

- Majority of complaints are because victims: weren't notified of decisions; called back by State's Attorneys' Offices, and were ignored by law enforcement
- The MDEC system will assist with notification. Victims will be able to submit their request for notification electronically. The integration of justice systems state wide will hopefully eliminate problems with the manual Crime Notification and Demand for Rights form getting lost between jurisdictions and agencies.
- Restitution filing is not included into the MDEC system
- Compliance's priority is to make sure MDEC integrates victim information and notification into their new case management system

❖ **RVAAM**

- Scheduled for June 2nd-6th
- There will be quite a few advanced trainings. The new class is full.

❖ **VINE**

- APPRIS' has increased usage for information, registrations and notifications
- Appris and the State Coordinator are working to correct 2,250 cases that were not properly transferred from DOC to APPRIS. These cases were missed because they were labeled as DNC (Do Not Disclose) or because of backdating, which is defined as DOC entering a date of release after the inmate is released. DOC is trying to determine how to contact victims, either by email or phone call.
- Depending on why the case was missed (DNC or Backdating) determine the scripting of the notification. DOC is planning on having a notification out by May 19th.
- To avoid future processing errors, it was suggested that audits of the system be done regularly.

MINUTES:

- A quorum was still not available; The minutes will be sent electronically to Board Members for approval

MEETING ADJOURNED: Guests and Board members were thanked for their participation. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:45 p.m.

**The next Board meeting will be held on
Wednesday, July 9, 2014 at 10:30 am
In Howard County
Location to be announced at www.goccp.maryland.gov**